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The BG News December 11, 1997

Bowling Green State University

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Thousands of teen-agers are
working illegally in high-risk
jobs on Ohio farms

TODAY

snow and rain
High: 36 Low: 30

The BG News

THURSDAY
December 11, 1997

Volume 84, Issue 72
Bowling Green, Ohio



"Serving the Bowling Green community for over 75 years"



Re-inventing the Student Union

• 4th Year Series •



drawing by WTW Architects

This is an artist's conception of what the front of a renovated and expanded Student Union may look like. It is important to note that this is only a theo-

retical drawing; no actual plans for the union have been set. Should the Board of Trustees approve the plan at its meeting today, the next step would be

hiring an architect and formulating blueprints for the structure.

University trustees to vote on final Student Union plans

By DARLA WARNOCK
The BG News

Preliminary discussions to renovate the Student Union which began in 1994 end today with a vote by the University Board of Trustees.

If the board passes down an affirmative vote, approval will be given to University President Sidney Ribeau to proceed with the preparation of preliminary design plans and cost estimates to begin a renovated Student Union.

With a negative vote, the three years of planning will be scratched and it will be back to the drawing board for the proponents of a renovated union.

Ed Whipple, vice president for student affairs, arrived at the University in fall of 1994 and began discussions with student leaders to see if there was student support for obtaining a new Student Union.

Undergraduate Student Government and the Graduate Student Senate -- along with Resident Student Association and Interfraternity Council -- led the students in getting behind the new union plan. Each passed resolutions to look at the idea of obtaining a more student-centered union.

Apparently, it worked. Then President Paul Olscamp approved a committee to be formed to study the prospects of the idea shortly before he left his position in early spring. Whipple was appointed to lead the

task force to study the idea, which he did in late September of the same year.

Before that time, the University presidential candidates were interviewed by the student groups, with one question in particular focusing on how supportive they would be for a union. Ribeau answered the question by saying "yes" and was hired in April 1995.

The task force report was delivered to Whipple in March 1996. Their findings were similar to the original suspicions.

"They found the Student Union to be 'woefully inadequate,'" Whipple said. "They went to go visit other student unions

The University Board of Trustees votes today on a plan that would lead to a newly renovated and expanded Student Union on campus. At a cost of nearly \$30 million, this project would be the single largest monetary undertaking in the 87-year history of this institution.

All this week, The BG News has examined the components of the plan. Today, the newspaper takes a look back at the process that has brought the University to this point.

Results of the Union vote and reaction from across the University will appear over the next few issues.

• See UNION, page five.

Campus thefts increase

□ The University urges students to keep valuables out of sight in order to decrease the chance of theft and burglary.

By SARAH BEDNARSKI
The BG News

Several burglaries have occurred in University residence halls over the past several days.

According to Dick Gullufsen, University public information officer, seven residence hall dorm rooms were broken into last weekend and Monday. He said theft usually increases this time of year because money is needed for holiday shopping.

"It's quick cash and it's hard to find out who stole it," Gullufsen said. "Just an opportunity for people to take stuff."

Gullufsen said thefts occurred in Compton, Kohl, Chapman, Offenhauer and Rodgers halls. He said the incidents are unrelated and appear to be "crimes of opportunity."

The only incident of grand theft was a Sony Playstation and seven games stolen from Kohl, Gullufsen said. He said several videocassette tapes were taken from Rodgers while money, books, compact discs were reported at the other halls.

According to Gwen Howe-Gebers, Wood County assistant prosecuting attorney, there is a difference between theft and burglary.

Gebers said theft is stealing property sitting on a desk where as burglary is entering an occupied area and taking something unlawfully.

"Basically, it's going to a place you're not supposed to be," she said. "Grand theft is anything over \$500."

Gullufsen said students should be careful and remember to protect their belongings.

• See THEFT, page four.

Crews respond to snowy conditions

□ Bill Blair, director of operations, warns motorists to take extra precautions due to the snow.

By SARAH BEDNARSKI
The BG News

The first big snowfall of the season wreaked havoc for many yesterday in Bowling Green.

Though the snow didn't taper off until about 4 p.m., crews around the University and city were busy plowing and salting roadways and sidewalks, starting in the early morning hours.

According to Brian Meyers, University grounds supervisor, they started to plow parking lots and sidewalks as the snow began to fall. He said crews also salted sidewalks to make students' trek around campus somewhat easier.

Meyers advised students to be on the look out for the snowplowers because it's difficult for them to see through the heavy snow.

"Turn car lights on even during the day," he said. "It's easier for our guys to see them and for them to see us."

Starting at 7:30 a.m., Bowling Green's snow removal crews salted streets, according to Bill Blair, director of operations.

"There will probably be about a six hour time lapse when no one is plowing," Blair said. "Another crew starts at 3 a.m." According to local weather reports, approximately 2 to 2.5 inches of snow fell on the area.

Blair said with the snowy conditions, yesterday, and in the months to come, motorists should drive slow and take extra precautions. He said lighter cars especially need to drive carefully.

With the recent snowfall, many students around campus hoped classes would be cancelled. To the dismay of all, they were not.

According to University policy, the process for class cancellation is that the Provost's office consults with University public safety and the Ohio State Highway Patrol to decide whether the conditions merit cancellations.

University conducts search to occupy ombudsperson role

□ The University begins the search for an ombudsperson to help students, faculty and staff resolve their issues.

By MELISSA NAYMIK
The BG News

Students, faculty and staff often find themselves in predicaments that they are unsure how to resolve. Sometimes they do not wish to speak to an authority figure, but rather to someone who is neutral. This person is the ombudsperson.

The University at present time does not have an ombudsperson, but will be conducting a search throughout the rest of the academic year to fill the role for the 1998/1999 academic year according to Charles Middleton, vice president and provost for academic affairs.

John T. Woods, president for the Graduate Student Government, was surprised that an educational institution the size of Bowling Green does not currently have an ombudsperson.

"All people go to this person with his or her problems," said Woods.

According to Middleton, the ombudsperson must report to the president of the University. The ombudsperson cannot do anything but resolve issues and help people acquire skills to help them solve their problems, explained Middleton.

Since the ombudsperson must report to the President, one of the downsides is the conversation the ombudsperson and another person have cannot maintain a level of confidentiality and all that is said is considered public record. For example, if a person claims to have been sexually harassed, the ombudsperson must report the incident.

Richard Hebine, associate dean of the college of arts and sciences and past ombudsperson, was asked by past President Olscamp, to take on the position as faculty ombudsperson seven years ago.

Aside from being associated with faculty, he also helped students with their problems.

According to Hebine, his main purpose was to resolve problems without bringing in lawyers and to have a peaceable solution.

The idea of an ombudsperson evolved in the late 1960s. Today there are over 200 universities which have an ombudsperson.

Currently, there are some departments on campus which have their own ombudsperson, such as the English department, explained Hebine.



Middleton

Holocaust brought burglary

□ Anne Frank's family was among the many to have their property stolen during the Holocaust.

The Associated Press

NEW YORK -- Right after Anne Frank and her family were taken away to Nazi concentration camps, neighbors in Amsterdam stole much of what they left behind, the World Jewish Congress said Wednesday.

It was typical of the way Jews were treated in the occupied Netherlands, the congress said in a report.

"For the most part, neighbors entered into Jewish homes straight after the deportation had taken place and took everything within an hour," according to a recollection by Wilma Stein,

• See FRANK, page four.

Opinion

Tony Cavallario
Opinion Editor
372-2604

THE BG NEWS



"Serving the Bowling Green community for over 75 years"

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Opinions expressed in columns and letters to the editor are not necessarily those of the student body, faculty, University administration or The BG News. Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the Fall 1997 BG News staff.

The BG News encourages its readers to notify the paper of any errors in stories or photograph descriptions.

Decisions made by the Editor-In-Chief and the Editorial Board are final.

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Editorial

New union will build community, although it moves another

Today, the University Board of Trustees votes on whether or not to allocate the money to build a new Student Union.

Obviously, this has created controversies all its own. The possibility of the razing of Prout Hall has ruffled plenty of feathers, but the argument of improving facilities for students holds lots of weight.

The new union would allow many student organizations' offices to be located in a centralized area.

The benefits of this are great. Keeping student groups in one place will allow them better communication and a greater chance of working together toward campus and community events. In the end, this will benefit all aspects of campus life.

The sheer improvement in facilities that the new union will offer can also be a boon to the University. The dining and recreation offerings are, of course, a wonderful feature, but there is more to consider than this.

Off-campus students often become "alienated" from the University world. While living in the residence halls offers a place to go in between classes, commuters lack this type of "comfort zone" to pass away the idle hours — after all, you can't go to the library every day.

In addition to not having a "home" during the day, off-campus students also lack a good nighttime spot for productive studying. As mentioned in a previous *News* editorial, the library closes too early, the current Union is too noisy, the Business Administration Building is too sterile and decent off-campus spots are nonexistent.

The new union would offer both of these to students. On-campus students could benefit from these improvements, as well.

However, the Prout Hall issue remains. The plan for the union that is supported by the University administration will call for the demolition of Prout. The Prout program is a strong source of pride for its participants, and many people argue that it can't be replicated anywhere else.

The *News* believes that a new Student Union will benefit the entire University as a whole. However, if the board of trustees does indeed decide to vote for the administration's union plan, the Prout program needs to be relocated to another residence hall.

Both the proposed union and the Prout program go beyond simple buildings. There are much deeper implications in both, and they should be pursued to their greatest depths.

Buy happiness for Christmas

'Tis the season to be jolly (or so we've been told). Yes, folks, Christmas is approaching once again. Personally, I am looking forward to the holidays and especially to the three-week vacation that accompanies it. But there's something I've been wondering about in this particular season of giving and receiving, of family and friends.

My wondering began about two weeks ago when I took my mail out of the box and what to my wondering eyes did appear? — but another offer for a credit card. Actually receiving this offer was not problematic in an of itself, however, I was very discontented when I read what was on the envelope and what was in reality being offered to me.

The envelope had a picture of two students on it, and it said "Cha-Ching!" while continuing on about how now that you're away from your parents it's time to spend, spend, spend! Their offer to me was that if I did not pay off my balance each month I would receive three percent back on what I spend. Gee, there's a deal.

I cannot even tell you how disgusted I was with this bank treating me, a potential cus-

JENNIFER SPAHN

tommer, like I was an idiot. This kind of advertising for college students is so discriminatory it is hard to believe it's allowed to exist, let alone be mailed out to people.

This is not the only event that has got me wondering about the issues of advertising and the holidays. In the evenings, I often like to watch television and of course along with that comes commercials. Holiday commercials are especially interesting to think about.

How is it that in the advertising of products and places, they have come to represent something other than what they really are? How is it that objects like cars have come to symbolize freedom? Why are certain clothes supposedly indicative of joy?

Cars are just masses of metal and other parts that take one from place to place in a society

that does not have public transportation. Clothes are pieces of fabric that cover our bodies. Nothing more, nothing less.

Yet watching commercials one would not be informed of this. Many people desire what they perceive as freedom, joy, love, and other such concepts that have come to be thought of as only obtainable through the buying of any given product.

Throughout the year and probably even more so around the holidays, we see ads for things that are presented as signifying a specific value that some people feel are important. In people's desire to obtain or show love, joy, freedom, whatever, they may go out and buy the product for themselves or a loved one.

Almost everything advertised has come to represent something else, something intangible. One example would be the freedom that has come to be associated with owning a pair of Nike shoes.

Where this starts to become really problematic is when (perhaps a few days after Christmas) one starts to realize that she is not feeling particularly free, joyful, or loved because

what they purchased or what was purchased for them is not providing what was promised. The object that was bought turns out to be just that: an object, but a person is still left with the desire for freedom, joy, or love nonetheless.

What does this mean for us? Does it translate into an existence of incessant desire and unfulfillment? I think in some ways it might. However, there may be ways to start overcoming this product-desire conflict.

It seems that in recognizing that no object truly is a tool or a part of obtaining our deepest desires, we may be able to start thinking of different ways to at least come closer to our wants. Remember before doing Christmas shopping for your family and friends, what you buy will perform only the function of what it was created for in the first place. People and their actions and beliefs are the real tools for creating fulfillment in their lives.

Jennifer Spahn can be reached at jspahn@bgnet.bgsu.edu.

FEEDBACK

More parking spaces?

Maybe we need a new Union and maybe we don't, but how much of a benefit must the new Union provide campus to compensate for the loss of Prout Hall? Also, any plan that calls for the construction of additional parking spaces is ludicrous.

A previous president of the University who did not get much else right pegged it when he said we have a walking problem and not a parking problem. If we need a new Union it should be built on the metered spaces behind Williams Hall, thereby improving the campus in two ways: a new Union and less unsightly blacktop!

David J. Jackson
Instructor
Political Science



ACGFA reform isn't final, needs student input

I'm writing in response to the letter written by Dawn Chrise about the ACGFA funding process issue. I'd like to clear up some parts of the article so that if anyone would like to be involved in the process or give us their opinions they can do so.

First, we decided to have this open forum to get feedback from student organizations. We thought this would help us along and let the student organizations voice their opinions. We did our best to inform all of the organizations of the informal feedback session and were very pleased with all of the organizations that could make it.

As to the accusation of HSA being on USG and not even knowing about the meeting, that is false. The HSA representative was at the meeting, and was informed of the meeting before-

hand.

USG was asked by Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Whipple to look at the current ACGFA process and suggest a different method of organizational funding. This was after many organizations had complained about the process to him and also to USG. So, this task was handed to us and a board was developed to figure out how we could improve the system.

At other universities, the student governments disperse the money to student organizations, so that is the plan we were looking at. USG is not currently being funded by the ACGFA process, so that would put us in a position to not be deciding on how much money to give ourselves and in a more unbiased position to try and fund others fairly.

We are very concerned about the way ACGFA is set up now. Certain organizations will not be able to be represented even if they want to be. Only a handful of organizations can be a part of the system and those are predetermined. Any student organization can apply to USG to have an organizational seat.

We thought that this would be an opening for the organizations that could not be part of ACGFA in the past to be involved if they really wanted to be. This process will be monitored by Dr. Whipple and others so USG is not in any position to be unfair or just handing out money to whoever we feel like, which is the concern of some.

The General Fee money is our money, and should be handled by the students. Granted, we do need the safety valves of people

like Dr. Whipple being involved in the process. That's just another way of trying to ensure that everything's on the right track. We want all students and organizations to be represented here and we are going to try and do that to the best of our ability.

Let me clear up the misconception that this process is final. It's not. We are trying to gain feedback on the issue and come up with a plan that can represent all of the students. If you want to hear more about this rough draft of a plan, we can provide that for you in the USG office.

We can also give you the information on the current ACGFA system as well. We will not be voting on this on Jan 12. I thank UAO for inviting everyone, and we do have open meetings, but this is not on our agenda

GUEST COLUMNIST

because of all of the concerns that were raised by student organizations. We want to have another open forum, a more formal one than this first feedback session and hope that organizations continue to participate.

Finally I would just like to express my extreme disappointment in the way that this was handled in the editorial by UAO. This is not set in stone.

We are coming to these organizations for feedback and suggestions and I do thank all of you who are e-mailing me with ideas. What I don't like here is all of the finger pointing and complaining. If you want to change something, then get in there and

do something constructive instead of sitting back and taking shots at other organizations. Frankly it's unproductive and it's like paddling backwards.

We, as student organizations, need to be working together to increase funding for our organization and doing things for the campus instead of always taking shots at others.

This process is far from being final as I said before, so feel free to use your energy to productively provide input. It works much better than complaining. As for everyone else, thanks for your input! We will let you know ASAP about what the next step will be and about our next forum.

Tara Gore is Undergraduate Student Government President.

PAGE THREE

FACT:
Behave Yourself won the 1921 Kentucky Derby.

FICTION:
All University students will be behaving themselves over winter break.



PEOPLE ON THE STREET

A look at what some members of the community think about the issue of the day:

Today's Question:
"What do you think of SIC'SIC?"



Jessica Reiniger
Junior
Sociology

"I think it's pretty cool to walk around campus and see the signs and laugh."



Chad Wyen
Senior
Theatre

"I met them one night and I was scared."



Jim Koch
Senior
Telecommunications

"Half the stuff's really funny; half the stuff's really stupid."



Jason DeSantis
Junior
MIS

"While being an important factor in campus community, they are also a form of ritual annoyance."



Valerie Lopez
Junior
Secondary Math Ed.

"It gets the campus thinking ... and I want them to want me."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 12/11/97

FREE coffee and hot chocolate! (8:45 a.m. - Noon)

Education Building foyer. Sponsored by Graduate Student Senate.

BGSEA collection of winter items (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

1st Floor Hallway, Education Building.

Jewelry Sale (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Union Foyer. Sponsored by UAO.

Internet Use for University Personnel (Mac) (1 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

209 University Hall. For information, call Continuing Education, 372-8181.

Lecture: Stanley I. Kutler (1 p.m.)

Alumni Room, Student Union. Author of "Abuse of Power: The New Nixon Tapes." Sponsored by the history department. This program has been cancelled due to weather. It will be rescheduled for a later date.

Stress Free Zone (4 p.m. - 8 p.m.)

Amani Room. Sponsored by UAO.

Desktop Skills for University Personnel (PC) (5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.)

200 University Hall. For information, call Continuing Education, 372-8181.

Film Showing (6:30 p.m. - Midnight)

Gish Film Theatre. Sponsored by UAO.

Book Drive (TBA)

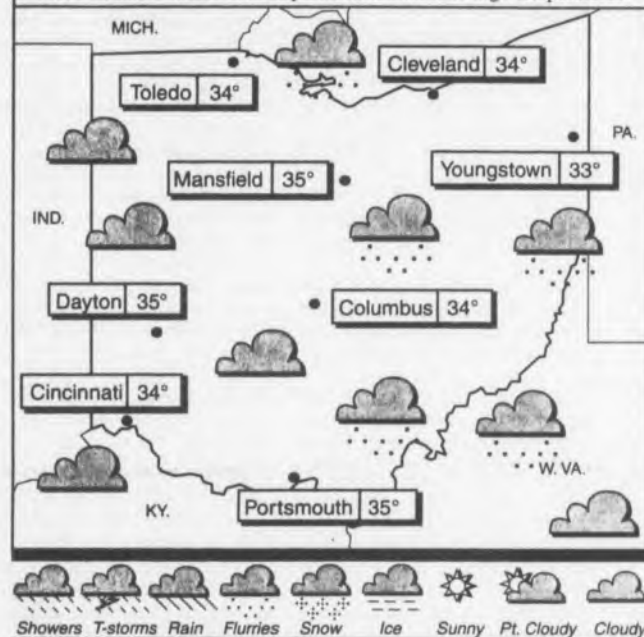
Dropoff box in the Union Foyer. Help the migrant camp program. Sponsored by the Wood County Library.

The calendar of events is a service of The BG News for the community. A more complete listing can be found on the University web page.

OHIO Weather

Thursday, Dec. 11

AccuWeather® forecast for daytime conditions and high temperatures



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It was just too deep a cut. How do I say this? It was cut down to the base."

Lt. Bill Gresham

of Fairfield, Calif., where a woman avenged her friend's murder by severing the alleged killer's penis.



CANES

- To professors who cut you more slack than you really deserve.
- To the snow — it's like a winter wonderland.
- To people who offer you popcorn when you walk past their door.
- To people who think for themselves — eye candy is tasty, but brain candy is much more satisfying.

COAL

- To overzealous grounds crew members who feel the need to tailgate pedestrians — good plan, bad execution.
- To slush — does it have any redeeming qualities?
- To reduced hours in the dining halls — this is the time of the year when students need food most.
- To people who whine about how much work they have to do — don't we all?



PAGE THREE is intended as an irreverent look at the University. We at The BG News consider it an offbeat page where we try to offer something for everybody. Opinions expressed herein are solely those of our staff. Merry Christmas.

TODAY'S WEATHER

Today
Snow and slush. **High: 36. Low: 30.**

Thursday
Snow, colder. **High: 32. Low: 24.**



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Health insurance nightmares while at BGSU? Out of network health care not covered? For a \$50 enrollment fee per semester the Student Health Service will not charge for any:

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news digest

The BG News

Compiled from staff and wire reports

■ NIXON

Lecture on Nixon's tapes cancelled due to weather

Due to a winter storm that is playing havoc with travel arrangements, a 1 p.m. lecture today by Dr. Stanley I. Kutler, author of "Abuse of Power: The New Nixon Tapes," has been canceled. The lecture will be rescheduled at a later time.

■ MINISTER'S TRIAL

Minister said to have hired hit man to kill man

SANFORD, Fla. — To hear prosecutors tell it, the Rev. George Crossley hated George "Butch" Waldo so much that he wanted a hit man to kill the husband of his former lover.

But whether Crossley actually looked for a killer or whether he was egged on by a friend is at the crux of his murder-for-hire trial involving sex, ministers and videotape.

Crossley's alleged offer to a federal agent posing as a hit man was captured on videotape and audio tape, portions of which were played for jurors as the trial began Tuesday.

"I want him to start feeling the heat a little because it's been the other way around," Crossley said on one of the tapes.

Lawyers for Crossley, a 56-year-old ordained minister who was the host of a show called "Central Florida Live," said he was entrapped by authorities and his friend, William Klinger.

"Bill Klinger thought of the inducement of killing George Waldo," defense attorney Anthony Suarez said. "It was not George Crossley who encouraged, asked to murder another person."

■ COLORADO BEATING

No action taken against whites who beat black woman

DENVER — No charges will be filed against six white people arrested in a confrontation with a black woman who said they beat her in a convenience store after she asked if they were skinheads.

District Attorney Bill Ritter said that after interviewing witnesses and reviewing store surveillance tape, he found no evidence of "provable criminal conduct" by the six people or the alleged victim.

"It was the only decision we could make," Ritter said. "Our decisions are based on the evidence given to us."

Shomle Francis, 26, told police she confronted five adults and a juvenile at the store early on Nov. 27 after she heard one of them use the word "nigger."

Francis said she asked a woman in the all-white group if they were skinheads. After the woman said yes, "somebody hit me," Francis said.

The six people were arrested and held for investigation of ethnic intimidation. Witnesses told police Francis asked the six at least three times if they were skinheads.

■ COMETS

Physicist offers evidence of Earth's ice bombardment

SAN FRANCISCO — A planetary physicist is offering more evidence to support his much-criticized theory that icy comets pelt Earth's atmosphere daily, adding water that has built up oceans over time and provided some of life's building blocks.

Louis Frank of the University of Iowa found himself in a tense news conference Tuesday as he faced skeptics of the idea he first presented in 1986. He dismissed all critics, calling one man's work "worthless," though the controversy isn't likely to disappear any time soon.

Last May, Frank presented photographs he said proved the existence of 20- to 40-ton cosmic snowballs that could have provided enough water over 4 billion years to seed Earth's oceans and life by providing certain organic compounds.

The new results, presented at the American Geophysical Union's fall meeting, are based on photos of Earth's upper atmosphere taken June 1, 1997, by cameras Frank designed for NASA's Polar spacecraft.

THEFT

Continued from page one.

"Be alert and lock your doors," Gullufsen said. "Keep valuables out of sight and be aware of suspicious looking people."

Gullufsen said CDs and books are easy targets because they can be sold back for quick cash.

"Since it's quick cash the items are hard to find again," he said. "Students need to report thefts so we can be on the look out."

If a student reports something stolen right away then police can alert shopowners on what to be on the look out for, according to Gullufsen.

Employers hire youth illegally

The Associated Press

WINESBURG, Ohio — They toil long hours in sunbaked fields, picking fruits and vegetables that end up on supermarket shelves.

They work in dimly lit factories making handcrafted furniture, and in slaughterhouses and construction sites with little or no protective equipment.

They are children and teenagers — the sons and daughters of migrant workers, the Amish, illegal aliens, the poor — working in high-risk jobs for low pay.

About a third of the 488,300 15-17 year olds in Ohio work. Of those, some 3,400 are working illegally, according to a child labor study sponsored by The Associated Press.

Among them is Santos, a 15-year-old illegal alien from Guatemala who for six months has worked 10-12 hour days at the Case Farms slaughterhouse, cutting and packaging pieces of raw chicken that are shipped to supermarket chains.

Federal and state laws prohibit anyone under 18 from working at a slaughterhouse, and subject violators to fines of up to \$10,000.

But Santos — he would give no other name — said through a translator he bought false documents that say he is 18. At 5-foot-10 and 150 pounds, with a baby face and dark brown eyes, he resembles a junior high school kid.

"These companies need workers and are willing to look the other way when it comes to child labor," said Mark Finnegan, a lawyer for the Equal Justice Foundation, a Toledo-based advocacy group. "It's dangerous for these kids to be working in places like Case Farms."

Winter wonderland



BG News Photo by Jeremy Martin

Students had to allow extra time when walking to class on Wednesday to deal with the slushy mess that had accumulated by afternoon.

NATION

Convicted killer loses penis in apparent revenge attack

The Associated Press

FAIRFIELD, Calif. — A woman bent on avenging the slaying of a friend bided her time for more than a decade before she seduced the killer and then cut off his penis, police say.

Doctors were unable to reattach the organ to 48-year-old pipe fitter Alan Hall.

Police on Wednesday searched for the woman, whom Hall knew only as "Brenda."

Hall, who was convicted in 1983 of voluntary manslaughter in the death of Denise Denofrio, told police that he met "Brenda" at a gas station on Friday and that she led him back to his trailer, where they had sex.

Suddenly, she took a cutting tool she found in his trailer and cut off his penis, he said.

"The woman made a comment

which caused the man to believe that she was seeking revenge for a previous incident involving the man and a friend of the woman," said Sgt. Brent Baird.

In the morning, eight hours after the attack, a passerby spotted Hall collapsed and bleeding heavily on the front lawn. Hall was rushed to NorthBay Medical Center, but it was too late to sew the penis back on.

"It was just too deep a cut," said Lt. Bill Gresham. "How do I put this? It was cut down to the base."

Hall's injuries were so severe that investigators were unable to question him in depth until Monday, when he got out of the hospital.

Family members said he left his trailer Tuesday.

"We really honest to God don't know where he is," said his

brother John Hall, 45. "I believe he's in shock. He's not talking a whole lot about what happened, and I'm not asking a lot."

John Mraz, the now-retired officer who investigated the 1983 case, said Hall strangled Denofrio, 22, with the cord of her sweatshirt after she apparently laughed at him because he couldn't perform sexually.

Her body, naked from the waist down, was found in the front seat of a car parked at a restaurant.

Police solved the case several days later after finding a matchbook from the bar. Patrons had no trouble describing Hall because of his distinctive curly hair, Mraz said. Hall served four years in prison.

The police officer said he could not recall interviewing a friend named Brenda.

FRANK

Continued from page one.

former head of the Jewish Welfare Association in Amsterdam.

"There were cases in which Jews were arrested in the morning, were released the same evening and who returned to their homes to find them empty."

The family's property never was recovered by Otto Frank, Anne's father and the only mem-

ber of the family to survive the Holocaust.

One of the things that survived the war was Anne's diary, which she had begun keeping at age 13, less than a month before she and her family went into hiding in an attic to escape the Nazis.

Cordula Bartha, a spokeswoman at the Netherlands Consulate in New York, said only the minister of finance in the Hague

or the press office at the Netherlands Embassy in Washington were authorized to comment on such matters.

Calls to the embassy in Washington were not answered. It was after hours in the Netherlands.

The report said large-scale robbery of Dutch Jews, who were forced to deposit their cash and valuables in a Nazi front bank, amounted to about \$350 million.

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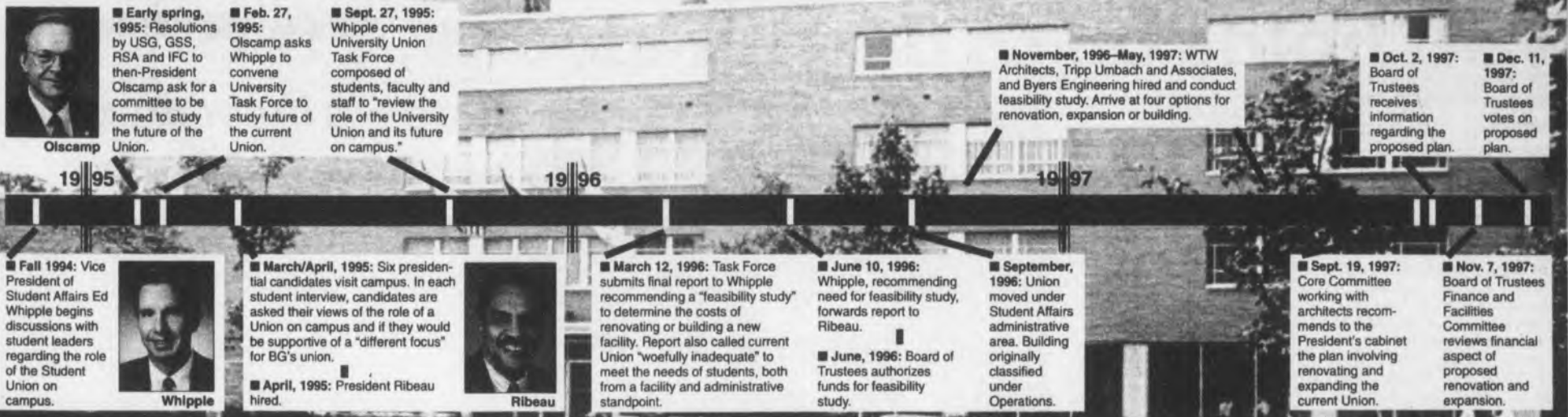
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RE-INVENTING OUR STUDENT UNION

Re-inventing our Student Union: A look at how the University formulated the plan



Source: Office of Student Life

BG News Graphic by Scott Brown

UNION

Continued from page one.

and saw that -- I think that it garnered a lot of support for the new union."

"Woefully inadequate" was used because it best described the lack of student life surrounding the Union and showed how it failed to meet the needs of students, Whipple said.

The object now is to create a true student union -- true in the sense that students feel comfortable going there and interacting among other members of the campus community.

Administrators hope a new union will increase enrollment and retention rates by creating a sense of community. Ribeau has emphasized "building community" since his arrival and has been a strong supporter of the union process.

In a letter addressing the board, Ribeau stressed the importance of renovating the union. "I believe that the Union renovation/expansion is a very important project and one that has the potential to not only markedly improve the quality of student life on campus, but also significantly enhance the effectiveness of our student recruitment and retention efforts," he said.

Shortly after the task force report was submitted to Ribeau, it was presented to the board, which then approved the funds for a feasibility study.

Up until this time, the union was operated under the area of Operations. After a restructuring of the administration last year, the Union moved under the direction of Student Affairs and Whipple.

WTW Architects, Tripp Umbach and Associates and Byers Engineering were hired to do the feasibility. After seven months, the group came back with four options for the president's cabinet to choose from. The recommendation came back to renovate and expand the current union.

Along with this renovation will come the demolition of Prout Hall and moving of the Phi Mu sorority house in order to create more space for parking.

The preliminary proposed plans have been presented to the board. It will be looked at again in detail shortly before the board meeting at the Finance Committee meeting.

According to Bob Waddle, director of capital planning, the process of rebuilding the union will take a good amount of time should the trustees decide to move forward with the plan.

If the plan moves forward today, bids will go out for a project design team, with the finalist chosen by mid-March 1998. The design phase will continue from that time until May 1999. A window of 18 months is left for construction, making the project to be completed by March 2001, Waddle said.

He explained the times allotted for each step of the plan are very preliminary and would depend on a number of issues, including funding.

The total cost for the project is estimated at \$30 million. Eighty percent, or \$25 million, will be put towards the actual construction of the building. The other 20 percent is made up of items such as furniture, insurance, computers, moving and any other incidentals.

Waddle said the union project has drawn a lot of attention over the past several months, but many questions may still remain in the minds of the board.

"They've been very interested," he said. "But nobody should be surprised by the questions the ask."

Whipple agreed that the trustees have shown a definite interest in the project and noted his excitement about being able to work with the students and trustees on the project.

"The students have worked for



drawing by WTW Architects

This is how the inside of a renovated and expanded Student Union may look like. The Board of Trustees votes today on whether to go ahead with the project. This is one possibility for the design; actual

blueprints will not be formulated unless the trustees approve the plan. The trustees meeting is at 2:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room of McFall Center.

this," Whipple said. "They did their own study and said we should have something better."

He compared the current Student Union with that of Ohio University and Miami University. Miami has newly remodeled union with students at the center of the renovations. OU is planning to build a new union within the next few years. Whipple said University students should have the same consideration given to them in designing a new union.

Should the renovations occur, decisions will be made concerning the services currently provided at the union and how they can continue to serve students during that time. Parts of the union may stay open during renovation, or the entire operation could be moved to a different location on campus so students could still use the services provided.

A new student survey will determine what goes into the newly renovated union and a lottery system will determine which student groups will move to that area.

Right now, the major issue is making sure the plan is flawless and everything is thought out completely to make sure that if it

is expanded and renovated it has the capability to move into the distant future with only minor changes.

One step remains. The decision will be made today in the Gallery of McFall Center at 2:30 p.m.

"In moving forward with these

plans to renovate and expand the existing facility, Bowling Green State University would be providing an environment which fosters a true locus of interaction, a vital 'heart of the campus,' and a true learning community," Whipple said. "I firmly endorse the proposal to move forward with this project."

The BG News is looking for qualified individuals to fill staff positions next semester. Many positions are still available.

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Sports

Jim Tocco
Sports Editor
372-2602

WSU holds on to down Falcons, 76-67

□ A late Wright State 3-pointer dooms BG's comeback hopes.

By JIM TOCCO
The BG News

Two late momentum changes left the outcome in question momentarily, but the momentum and the better half of a 76-67 decision ended up in the hands of the Wright State Raiders.

Bowling Green (2-5) had trailed 35-26 at halftime, and trailed by seven with 4:20 remaining in the game when WSU center Thad Burton was called for a technical foul for putting Dave Esterkamp in a headlock.

By the time Esterkamp hit two of his three free throws, Anderson Arena was a beehive of excitement. The Falcons used the emotional edge to climb to within one for the first time since the game's first minute.

Wright State called a timeout, and came back out firing. WSU's leading scorer Kelon Brooks sunk a jumper and was fouled. His free throw bounced out of bounds off the Falcons with just over a minute to play.

After running off some time, WSU point guard Brandon Pardon squelched BG's emotional run with a 3-pointer.

"That was big," said Wright State coach Ed Schilling. "It was one of those things where the roof was getting ready to pop off this place. The fans were really getting loud and that shot really settled us down."

Pardon was 3-for-3 from

WRIGHT STATE 76 BOWLING GREEN 67

WRIGHT STATE (4-3)
Brooks 7-15 2-3 17, Rodgers 5-11 0-0 10,
Burton 2-3 4-5 8, Baultrippe 7-14 2-2 19,
Pardon 4-5 0-1 11, Scott-Ernst 2-4 0-0 5,
Yeagle 1-2 0-0 2, Kosch 2-2 0-0 4, Petersons
0-0 0-0 0. Totals 30-55 8-11 76

BOWLING GREEN (2-5)
Esterkamp 3-6 3-5 9, Reid 7-13 3-3 20,
Cowan 4-5 3-3 11, Moore 6-13 0-0 12, Furlin
0-6 0-0 0, Keys 2-4 0-0 5, Chambers 0-0 0-0 0,
Crespo 0-1 0-0 0, Black 4-6 0-1 10. Totals
26-54 9-12 67

Halftime - Wright St. 35, Bowling Green
26. 3-point goals - Wright St. 8-20 (Brooks
1-3, Rodgers 0-2, Baultrippe 3-9, Pardon 3-3,
Scott-Ernst 1-2, Yeagle 0-1), Bowling
Green 6-17 (Esterkamp 0-1, Reid 3-5, Moore
0-2, Furlin 0-4, Keys 1-1, Black 2-4). Fouled
out - Esterkamp, Burton. Rebounds - Wright
St. 34 (Burton 9), Bowling Green 24 (Cowan
6). Assists - Wright St. 17 (Pardon, Brooks 6),
Bowling Green 11 (Moore, Esterkamp 4).
Total fouls - Wright St. 16, Bowling Green
16. Technical fouls - Burton, A - 2, 580.

3-point land, but the biggest by far was the one that put his team up by six with just over a minute to play.

"Pardon's shot is a shot I'm sure he's hit 1,000 times over his career," said BG coach Dan Dakich. "When he shot it, there wasn't any doubt about it. It was going in all the way, and that kind of sealed the deal."

BG shot over 48 percent from the floor, its best shooting game of the year.

"We played well, particularly against the man-to-man," Dakich said. "Probably better than we have all year."

Tony Reid led the Falcons with 20 points, including three 3-pointers.

● See COMEBACK, page seven.



BG News Photo by Kelly Dietrich
Dave Esterkamp attempts a free throw against Wright State last night. Esterkamp finished with nine points.

Raiders burn BG with perimeter shooting

By TOD McCLOSKEY
The BG News

Wright State knew exactly what Bowling Green wanted to do. And that's what they did. The Raiders embarrassed the Falcons at their own game, with a role-reversal of 3-pointers in a 76-67 Falcon loss.

BG's defense, or lack thereof, opened up the shots for the Raiders. Wright State started off with a bang, taking control of the game early and never giving up the lead.

The Falcons seemed flat and lackadaisical in the first half, coming off picks and screens slowly, allowing for wide open shots and many Raider baskets. Wright State ended up 8-for-20 behind the 3-point line and 30-for-55 in field goals.

"In the first-half we were standing around a lot and not hitting the boards like we should have," BG forward Tony Reid said. "Their guys were constantly wide open on one side, out of our line of sight and we couldn't see them."

Most of the Raiders' damage came in the first half as the Raiders built a 35-26 edge by hitting five-of-10 bombs by halftime. Wright State's catalyst for the aerial attack was Tony Baultrippe.

"We hit shots early that gave

Tony Baultrippe confidence," Wright State coach Ed Schilling said. "We made shots inside, because our rebounding took off our guys came up big."

"We have to run the offense and try to stay focused," Baultrippe said. "I hit my first shot, gained confidence and the rest of my shots just came around."

Baultrippe hit three-of-nine 3-pointers, had four assists and 19 points, hurting BG where it hurts the most - from the perimeter. Baultrippe's shots opened up the court for other long-rangers too, most notably Brandon Pardon.

As the Falcons pulled within three points of Wright State near the one minute mark in the second-half, Pardon hit a three-edged dagger into the hearts of the BG players, ending the chance at a comeback.

"I thought they hit good shots," BG coach Dan Dakich said. "Brooks was tough, he played well and Pardon's shot kind of sealed the deal."

All three of Pardon's open downtown shots found their way into the basket, stealing BG's thunder and confidence.

The excellent Raider shooting also led to great rebounding. The Falcon defense was outrebounded all over the boards, especially

● See PERIMETER, page seven.

Osborne retires as Nebraska coach

The Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. -- The tears didn't come until the day Tom Osborne decided to walk away from college football.

The Nebraska coach stalked the sideline for 25 years with barely a wince or a smile over a win or a loss. On Wednesday, he was clearly choked up as he announced an end to one of the most successful careers in the sport.

"I think it's wise to back off before you leave feet first or somebody tells you it's time to go," Osborne said.

The 60-year-old coach said he was retiring because of health

problems and to spend more time with his family and at church. He had heart bypass surgery 13 years ago and was hospitalized with an irregular heartbeat last month.

He will coach his final game when the No. 2 Cornhuskers play No. 3 Tennessee in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 2. If he wins -- and top-ranked Michigan loses to Washington State in the Rose Bowl -- his reign almost certainly will end with a national championship.

A team meeting for the game began like any other, quarterback Scott Frost said. Then Osborne broke the news.

"Everybody was totally quiet

and you could hear a pin drop," Frost said. "Coach Osborne doesn't usually show any emotion ... but there was a tear in his eye."

At the crowded news conference, the coach once again showed his emotions. Usually stoical and composed, his eyes welled up as four of his players took the podium in front of about 300 people to offer their thanks.

"I care very much about those guys so that's what's been most difficult," Osborne said. "I hope at some point they will realize that I'm trying to do what's the best thing for them."

Osborne rejected the idea of continuing to coach while dele-

gating duties to top assistants. He said he didn't want to become a "figurehead coach." Longtime assistant Frank Solich, the running backs coach, will take over the team.

For a quarter-century, Osborne and Nebraska have been perennial powers, winning national titles in 1994 and 1995 and making 25 straight bowl appearances, including the upcoming Orange Bowl game.

But Osborne also had to weather his share of criticism in recent years for allowing players facing criminal charges to remain on the field.



Associated Press photo
Tom Osborne announced his retirement Wednesday after being at the Nebraska helm for 25 years.

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CCHA approaches mid-season break

Since it's December, there's plenty of talk about the holidays in terms of breaks from everything.

The Central Collegiate Hockey Association players will earn some breathers from action on the ice for about two weeks. No team will be in action between Dec. 15 and Dec. 26.

But before this weekend is complete, the teams tied for third - Miami and Northern Michigan - will tangle Friday and Saturday in Oxford. It is the Wildcats' first trip to Goggin Ice Arena since Oct. 22-23, 1982.

Both teams have 14 points - three behind league-leading Michigan State and one behind Michigan. If either team records a sweep, that team could be leading the CCHA heading into the holidays depending on how Michigan fares against Western Michigan Friday and Saturday. The Wolverines and Broncos play in Grand Rapids, Mich., Friday and in Ann Arbor Saturday. The Spartans have the weekend off.

Miami and Northern have been getting things done with defense.

CCHA Notebook



They rank third and fourth in CCHA play in goals allowed behind Michigan State and Michigan. The RedHawks have allowed just 24, while the Wildcats 15 points.

Two days after the Christmas, have let 31 slip into the net.

Miami has also received plenty of offensive support, scoring 44 CCHA goals second to Alaska-Fairbanks' 47.

RedHawk senior goalie Trevor Prior has a 2.03 goals allowed average, good for fourth in the CCHA, while Wildcat sophomore Duane Hoey ranks ninth with a 2.52 average. Prior has saved .919 of the shots fired at him,

while Hoey has saved .889. Prior is also tied for third in CCHA wins with eight.

Northern might want to avoid penalty killing situations as the RedHawks rank first in the league power play (12-of-43 for 27.9 percent).

Miami's leading scorer is Dan Boyle with 24 points, while Buddy Smith leads the Wildcats with 15 points.

Two days after the Christmas, most CCHA teams will play in two-day tournaments and invitations.

The Great Lakes Invitational at Joe Louis Arena on Dec. 27-28 will probably be one to watch. Michigan faces St. Lawrence to begin the action followed by Michigan State battling Michigan Tech. Should the Spartans and Wolverines win, they will face off in the championship game in a possible preview of the CCHA championship game.

On the same days, defending national champion North Dakota will invade Michigan when it plays in the Pepsi Tournament in Big Rapids, Mich. Either Ferris

State or Western Michigan could earn a shot at North Dakota in the championship if the Fighting Sioux beat Cornell in the tournament opener.

CCHA play will resume on Jan. 2, 1998.

Offensive and Defensive Players of the Week

Ohio State junior Chris Richards was named the CCHA Offensive Player of the Week. He scored seven points as the Buckeyes swept Alaska-Fairbanks.

Bowling Green goalie Shawn Timm was the CCHA Defensive Player of the Week. He stopped 63-of-66 shots against Michigan State over the weekend including all 42 shots in BG's 1-0 upset Sunday.

Other games

Ohio State travels to Lake Superior for a pair of games Friday and Saturday; Ferris State goes west to Alaska-Fairbanks Saturday and Sunday; and Notre Dame hosts Wisconsin Friday in a non-league contest.

Multi-talented Woodson aims for Heisman

The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. - The baby laughed and splashed as he always did. Charles Woodson was 6 months old and loved his bath. His mother smiled. Then, for the first time, she noticed his arches.

"They just didn't look the way they should," Georgia Woodson recalls.

Charles was diagnosed as having clubbed feet.

For the better part of the next year, Charles Woodson wore leg braces. They secured his legs to each other, preventing him from walking.

"We had to carry him because he had to wear leg braces all day," his mother says. "He basically couldn't walk at all."

Until he was 4, he had to wear corrective shoes. Kids being kids, he was teased.



Woodson

"He didn't want to wear them," Georgia says. "He fought it."

Woodson has been fighting -- and winning -- ever since. He went on to become Ohio's best high school football player, then an All-American at Michigan. Now he is a top candidate for the Heisman Trophy. The winner will be announced Dec. 13.

He already has earned the Walter Camp award, also honoring the nation's top college football player. Only five times since the award was first given in 1967 has the Camp award gone to someone who didn't win the Heisman.

Still, the odds are against Woodson. A defensive player has never won the Heisman.

"If the Heisman doesn't come around, it doesn't," Woodson says. "I'll still be happy."

That is exactly what his mother would expect him to say. She says her son was always "laid-back and quiet, so much so you never knew he was in the room."

The child from a devoutly Pentecostal house never caused trouble. And he honored his mother's directives to do his

homework before play.

"He was never a 'Me, me, me' person," his mother says. "It was always 'What can we do as a team.'"

Woodson has little recollection of the braces and shoes of his toddler years.

"I just found out about it a couple of years ago," he says. "But I'm glad that my mother and father caught it early."

His legs were fine by the time Rex Radeloff, the biology teacher and retired football coach at Ross High School in Fremont, Ohio, first saw Woodson in seventh grade.

"He made things happen," Radeloff says. "He's one player I'll never forget."

When he arrived in Ann Arbor, the coaches assumed Woodson would want to play offense.

"I told them defense was my first choice," Woodson says. "In 10th grade, I started playing defense. Mainly because we already had a great tailback. Once I started playing it, it just started growing on me. I liked it a lot."

COMEBACK

Continued from page six.

Wright State, like most of the Falcons' opponents, held a height advantage and outbounded BG 34-24.

"We knew we had an advantage inside," Schilling said.

Wright State improves to 4-3 on the season, stopping a three-game skid.

"This is a really big win for us," said Tony Baultrippe, who led the Raiders with 19 points. "We lost our last three, so this is a big confidence booster."

PERIMETER

Continued from page six.

on the offensive end. An 11-to-seven advantage on the offensive boards gave the Raiders second and third chances to sink the ball, something the Falcons couldn't do.

With a mismatch down in the paint, Kirk Cowan did all he could to slow down Thad Burton and Marvin Rodgers, who scored for combined 18 points. Cowan, who had 11 points playing all 40

"I think Wright State played really well," Dakich said. "I think they hit the big shots."

Burton led all rebounders with nine, including seven on the defensive boards.

"Sometimes when you're on the road, things won't go your way, but Coach just instilled in us to refuse to cave in," Baultrippe said.

DeMar Moore scored 12 for the Falcons, and Kirk Cowan added 11 while playing all 40 minutes.

Brooks score 17 for the Raiders, and Pardon ended with 11.

minutes, was undermanned against these big men, who received ample rest staying fresh for the late-second half run.

"Thad had a mismatch underneath the basket, but with our unselfish team, we were able to hit them down low," Baultrippe said. "Sometimes on the road, things go bad and you have to step it up and fight back."

HOCKEY STANDINGS

All Times EST
By The Associated Press
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	20	9	0	40	86	53
Philadelphia	15	9	6	36	84	70
Washington	15	11	4	34	90	80
N.Y. Rangers	9	13	11	29	84	91
N.Y. Islanders	12	14	4	28	80	82
Florida	10	15	5	25	75	89
Tampa Bay	5	20	4	14	54	98

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	18	10	4	40	98	76
Pittsburgh	17	10	5	39	90	78
Boston	13	12	5	31	74	79
Ottawa	13	13	4	30	78	72
Carolina	12	15	5	29	85	91
Buffalo	9	13	6	24	72	77

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	21	8	4	46	106	70
Detroit	19	7	5	43	105	74
St. Louis	19	10	3	41	97	73
Phoenix	13	14	4	30	83	87
Chicago	10	14	6	26	66	77
Toronto	10	14	5	25	65	78

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	16	7	9	41	96	81
Los Angeles	12	13	5	29	90	85
Anaheim	11	14	6	28	70	88
Edmonton	9	16	7	25	75	98
Calgary	8	18	7	23	84	101
San Jose	10	18	2	22	76	93
Vancouver	9	18	4	22	89	111

BASKETBALL STANDINGS

All Times EST
By The Associated Press
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Miami	14	5	.737	-
Orlando	15	7	.682	.5
New Jersey	11	9	.550	3.5
New York	11	9	.550	3.5
Washington	9	12	.429	6
Boston	8	11	.421	6
Philadelphia	5	13	.278	8.5

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	15	4	.789	-
Cleveland	13	6	.722	2
Charlotte	12	7	.632	3
Indiana	11	7	.611	3.5
Chicago	12	8	.600	3.5
Milwaukee	11	9	.550	4.5
Detroit	9	12	.429	7
Toronto	2	19	.095	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	12	5	.705	-
Utah	12	8	.600	1.5
San Antonio	11	10	.524	3
Minnesota	8	11	.421	5
Vancouver	7	14	.333	7
Dallas	5	14	.263	8
Denver	2	17	.105	11

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	16	5	.762	-
L.A. Lakers	15	5	.750	-
Phoenix	12	5	.706	2
Portland	12	6	.667	2.5
Sacramento	7	14	.333	9
L.A. Clippers	4	17	.190	12
Golden State	3	15	.167	11.5

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OFFSIDES

BG News sportswriters tackle two sides of the sports issues on every fanatic's mind

Continue the tradition: keep the bowl system

The bowl system used in Division I-A college football right now does not produce a true national champion. I'll give you that. A playoff system might be a better way of deciding who the best team in the land is. But...

Do we really need to have a national champion?

No, we do not. All of America has this insatiable, egotistical urge to bequeath the title of "best in the land," no matter what the category. College football is merely another vice.

But it shouldn't be. Remember the focus of collegiate athletics, or rather what the focus should be: the student-athletes. It shouldn't be about making money. It shouldn't be about winning titles.

So what is the driving force behind the push for a playoff system? To decide on a true national champion. But who are the biggest backers of this setup? The networks.

Why? Because they see it as an unbelievable money-maker. ABC executives are probably drowning in their drool at the prospect of the advertising money that would naturally follow a game like this. CBS' eyes water at the audience that would tune in. And the NBC peacock is all excited at the thought of giving Dick Enberg another big-time assignment.

Money corrupts. And a playoff system would only cause further corruption.

I'm not suggesting the bowls aren't guilty of gorging on big-name schools at the expense of better teams, for the sole purpose of raking in the green. Notre Dame is off to the Independence Bowl despite the fact that the Fighting Irish

played half the season like Fighting Banana Slugs.

But the bowls offer the chance for 17 teams to end the season on a winning note. They give 34 teams an opportunity to showcase their talents in the postseason.

Sure, there's always grumbling from teams that are slighted, by big and small bowls alike, but that wouldn't end with a playoff system. How many teams do you let in? Four? What about the No. 5 team? Eight? What about No. 9? It's a no-win situation.

The season is long enough as it is without weeks worth of playoffs. Brigham Young played 14 games last season. That's 14 weeks of game preparation, 14 weeks of focusing on nothing but football. Extend the season any longer, and you're only putting the student-athletes at greater risk of falling behind in classes.

You could eliminate the bowls altogether and hold the playoff during the time usually reserved for such monumental events as the Motor City Bowl. But that would be bad. And it won't ever happen.

There's too much money imbedded into the fabric of the bowl system for that to happen. And one other thing prevents it: tradition.

I could write forever about how the bowls are steeped in such rich tradition. But the most important fact is that bowls have history, they have tradition; a playoff system does not and would never approach the lore of the bowls.

A playoff system wouldn't deliver its desired effect. Wake up and smell the Roses: Bowls are better.

Jason
McMAHON
BG News
Assistant
Sports Editor



G. Michael
GRAHAM
BG News
Sportswriter

TODAY'S TOPIC

Should a playoff system be used to decide the Division I-A college football champion?

NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC

Is there a Santa Claus?

We want to know what you think about next week's topic. Call us to voice your opinion: on campus at 372-2602 and off campus at 353-9315. Speak to a reporter or leave a voice mail.

WHAT YOU SAID

No responses received.

This is the final OFFSIDES column of the semester. The sports staff of The BG News has enjoyed this feature, and we hope you have found our columns interesting, entertaining and provocative — at least once in a while. However, we'll admit that OFFSIDES has not generated the kind of reaction we had hoped for. Only a handful of people called in to voice their opinion over the last few months, which, we'll admit, disappointed us. So should OFFSIDES continue? We want — we need — to know what you think. Is it a worthwhile feature, or is it a waste of space? Please tell us. Call the sports desk at 372-2602 and leave a message with either a reporter or voice mail. You can also e-mail your thoughts to jmcmaho@bgnet.bgsu.edu. Thank you for your participation.

Jason McMahon
Assistant Sports Editor

Playoffs would decide champion on the field

Without a doubt, there should be a playoff system used to determine the NCAA Division I-A football champion for one clear reason.

Players should decide who wins the championship, not writers and coaches.

It should be decided on the field and not in press rooms.

Under the current system, even with the Bowl Alliance, sportswriters and coaches decide the national champion just by voting on a piece of paper. It's like asking a writer or coach, "Who do you think is the best team in the nation?" College football is a sport, not a political event.

With the above question in mind, bias plays a big role in determining the national champion. As a sportswriter, I could vote Tennessee No. 1 simply because I don't like Michigan and Nebraska.

Under the current system, it is also possible for Texas Christian, which finished 1-10, to get a vote or two on the AP Top 25 ballot. Odds are that it won't happen, but with bias these days, it is possible.

Also under the current system, only three teams — Tennessee, Nebraska and Michigan — have a realistic chance of winning the national title because they are the three top-rated teams in the nation.

There is a possibility of Michigan and Nebraska finishing unbeaten. Michigan would then win the national title because they've been ranked No. 1 for a good part of the season. The Cornhuskers would cry foul just as Penn State did in 1994. Next year, the Big Ten and PAC Ten join the Alliance to almost guarantee a No. 1 vs.

No. 2 matchup on Jan. 2. But if three teams were to finish unbeaten, things would still be complicated.

Folks, there are 110 Division I football squads. Not to say there should be a playoff system with all programs, but a playoff system would give all 110 teams a shot at winning the national title. All they'd have to do is qualify for the playoffs just as they do for the current bowls. This system would be helpful to teams who have lost once or twice such as Ohio State, North Carolina, Florida and Florida State.

It would also give conference champion teams such as Marshall, Colorado State and Syracuse a shot through an automatic bid. I think a 32-team playoff system would be fair because it would include all conference champions plus every other team in the Top 25.

I'm aware that traditionalists would cry if a playoff system were installed. But I'm sorry to say that tradition must be changed when it comes to fairness. I also ask the traditionalists, "Why has a national champion been selected this way?"

I also know that certain universities would be mad because they'd lose money. My solution on the issue is to give every playoff qualifier an equal amount of money so no university can complain.

If you're not convinced that a playoff system is a necessity, you must be unaware of how every other NCAA sport and division has success doing it this way. No controversies can be stirred through this system. A playoff system is the only true and fair way to decide a national champion.



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Entertainment

Tod McCloskey
Entertainment Editor
372-2603

'Week in Rock' to be re-tooled, return

The Associated Press

NEW YORK -- The celebration was as low-key as the man at its center, or, to be accurate, a little off-center.

MTV News anchor Kurt Loder and about a dozen people hoisted champagne in paper cups after the 514th and last edition of the network's "Week in Rock" last Friday. They stood in a kitchen in the bowels of MTV's new Times Square studio.

Compare this party to the lavish attention paid over Thanksgiving weekend to cartoon heroes Beavis and Butt-Head's final episode.

"They get the Plaza treatment," Loder deadpans. "We get the MTV Pantry."

"Week in Rock" isn't really going away. It's just getting a makeover new look, new name to keep pace with the relentlessly style-conscious network. It will be back in late January.

After a month's vacation, so will Loder. Nearly 10 years into his tenure at MTV, he stands as a model of durability in a teleculture that often celebrates the disposable. Think of all the MTV comets that have come and gone in that time, to say nothing of the musicians. Tabitha Soren's away at college. Allison Stewart's gone to CBS. Puck is, well, who cares where Puck is anyway?

Loder brings a quiet authority to his job, in the process lending stature to cultural news and to an audience that doesn't get much

respect.

After growing up in southern New Jersey, Loder learned journalism in, of all places, the Army during the 1960s. He followed his love of music to a job as a writer at "Rolling Stone" magazine.

He was anxious to try something new in 1988 when David Sirulnick invited him to help create a news organization where none had existed at MTV.

Not only was he covering issues that many mainstream outlets didn't really consider news, he was covering an industry that would be happier if journalists didn't exist. Most music executives would prefer MTV simply to play videos, no questions asked.

An important early moment in convincing people MTV was serious about the news was during the controversy over Neil Young's "This Note's For You" video. Young was not only making fun of rampant commercialism in music, but of MTV itself. Loder said he had no pressure to back off from the story.

MTV's youthful audience appreciates more blunt talk than it gets from many news organizations, he said. The key is treating the viewers, and the things important to them, with respect.

"Our audience has been talked down to long enough," he said. "I'm sure they don't need more from us."

Keillor recalls his trials, tribulations

The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- Garrison Keillor eases his lanky frame into a chair, crosses his legs and reveals just below the pant leg where moments ago he had spilled "about a quart" of coffee his trademark red socks.

"With guys, clothing is pretty drab. And it's nice to have one little flash of color, like a red-winged blackbird," explains Keillor, who picked up the red-sock habit from a Uni-

versity of Minnesota professor, Mulford Q. Sibley.

"Most guys would do it with a tie. But I like a little flash of the socks, because they're covered up. You cross your legs and suddenly the room comes alive."

Whether he's wearing a tuxedo for a performance or a gray suit and sweater for an interview in his office at Minnesota Public Radio, Keillor favors red socks.

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